

## JOINT REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

BULLETIN

1 June 2020



## (U//FOUO) Tactics Used to Injure Officers Responding to Protests, Riots

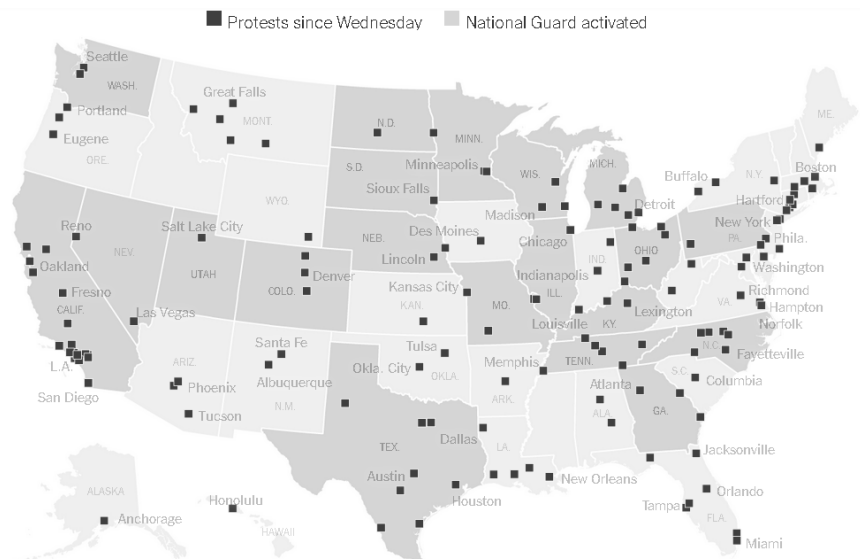
(U//FOUO) Since Friday, 29 May 2020, at least 100 law enforcement officers (LEOs) have been injured while responding to protests and riots around the nation, most commonly by projectiles and physical assaults along skirmish lines, while defending property, or in vehicles, but also by vehicular assaults, shootings, and edged weapon attacks, according to open-source reporting.<sup>i,ii</sup> LEOs should be aware of the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) employed by criminally-minded actors to devolve peaceful protests into violence.

## VIOLENT TACTICS OBSERVED THUS FAR

 <b>Projectiles</b>	 <b>Physical Assaults</b>	 <b>Vehicles Attacked</b>	 <b>Building Defense</b>	 <b>Shootings</b>	 <b>Vehicular Assault</b>	 <b>Edged Weapons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal</li> <li>• Includes bricks, rocks, bottles; some reports of fireworks, Molotov cocktails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal</li> <li>• Generally occurs along skirmish lines, during arrests, or while defending property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very Common</li> <li>• Injured in or near targeted vehicle, primarily by projectiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Reports</li> <li>• Injured defending police precincts, firehouses, government buildings, private properties, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Reports</li> <li>• At least one LEO fatality; at least two wounded; mostly reported as 'shots fired'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Reports</li> <li>• At least two LEOs seriously injured, others with minor injuries, and narrow misses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncommon</li> <li>• Attacked when separated from main skirmish line</li> </ul>

## (U) Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) in Use across the Nation

(U//FOUO) The following list of incidents is a representative sample of TTPs used by violent actors over the past 48 hour across the nation, as indicated by open-source reporting. It is not all-inclusive; minor injuries are likely unreported. Familiarity with TTPs outlined below may improve the safety posture of LEOs and other first responders.



(U) The National Guard units have been activated in at least 20 states to assist with security. Image: New York Times

i (U//FOUO) Data on protests, rallies, and demonstrations are not systematically compiled in the United States due to the complexity of the task and the Constitutional protection afforded to such gatherings, but according to some past studies, most events were, and continue to be, peaceful. Approximately one-third of 1,037 events held between 2010 and 2011 (the latest data available) had law enforcement officers (LEOs) present; of those, roughly a fifth—7 percent of the total number of events—involved arrests. A small proportion of events involved property damage and violence.

ii (U) **Disclaimer:** The First Amendment to the US Constitution protects individuals' rights to peacefully assemble, speak, and petition the government, and prohibits the US Congress from enacting legislation to abridge this right. The right to assemble is not absolute, however, and government officials can impose restrictions on the time, place, and manner of peaceful assembly, often in the form of requirements to obtain a permit. The First Amendment does not provide the right to conduct an assembly at which there is a clear and present danger of riot, disorder, or interference with traffic on public streets, or other immediate threat to public safety and order. The JRIC is prohibited from monitoring protests and activities protected by the First Amendment, absent evidence of a criminal or terrorist nexus.

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PROJECTILES	<p>Most commonly reported source of injury. Mix of intentionally pre-positioned or carried objects (fireworks, improvised incendiary devices, filled balloons, bottles) and opportunistic objects (bricks, rocks, traffic cones) Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Los Angeles   Lit fireworks, bricks, rocks, and bottles thrown, causing multiple injuries; some objects pre-positioned for use</li> <li>CO   Denver   Cache of gas canisters, golf balls, rocks found in downtown area</li> <li>FL   Tampa   Mortars set off toward LEOS, causing minor burns</li> <li>IL   Chicago   Molotov cocktails, bricks, and bottles thrown, causing minor injuries</li> <li>SC   Columbia   Rocks thrown at firefighter, status unknown</li> <li>UT   Salt Lake City   Bow and arrow used by civilian to threaten protestors, who then swarmed him, overturned his vehicle, and set it on fire; no LEO or civilian injuries</li> <li>VA   Manassas   Bricks, bottles, rocks thrown, one LEO hospitalized, others injured</li> <li>WA   Seattle   Molotov cocktails, lit fireworks, and bottles thrown, causing multiple injuries</li> </ul>
PHYSICAL ASSAULTS	<p>Commonly reported source of injury. Most instances occurred during dispersal actions along skirmish lines and during arrests. Some instances of use of caustic chemicals and biological substances, raising risk of burns and COVID-19 infection. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Los Angeles   Lacerations and impact wounds sustained by at least six officers attempting to disperse protestors</li> <li>IL   Chicago   Broken bones when LEO surrounded, punched, hit, dragged by protestors</li> <li>PA   Philadelphia   Chemical burns from unknown caustic substance injured several LEOs; biological exposure from spit, urine, and other substances used by protestors</li> <li>SC   Columbia   LEO attacked by protestors while attempting to render aid to injured man</li> <li>SC   Charleston   LEO pulled to ground by attacking protestors; not injured</li> <li>UT   Salt Lake City   Baseball bat used against LEO, causing head injuries</li> </ul>
VEHICLES ATTACKED	<p>Commonly reported activity; occasional source of injury. Some vehicles have been occupied during attack; most unoccupied. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Los Angeles   Police vehicles were set on fire and other vehicles were vandalized</li> <li>IL   Chicago   Police cars set on fire during attempts to breach Trump Tower<sup>USBUS</sup></li> <li>NY   New York City   Molotov cocktails thrown at occupied, marked LE vehicles in at least four different incidents; no injuries</li> <li>TN   Nashville   Six police vehicles damaged by thrown bottles and objects</li> <li>UT   Salt Lake City   Two unoccupied police vehicles flipped over, burnt by protestors</li> <li>WA   Seattle   Two AR-15 rifles stolen from burnt police vehicles; both rifles later recovered</li> </ul>
BUILDING DEFENSE	<p>Commonly reported activity; rarely a source of LEO injury. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Sacramento   Main County Jail glass front doors shattered by thrown rocks; no LE injuries</li> <li>IA   Des Moines   Fireworks shot into County Courthouse after windows broken; no LE injuries</li> <li>NY   Buffalo   Failed City Hall arson by Molotov cocktail; no LE injuries</li> <li>NV   Reno   City Hall arson fires set; no LE injuries</li> <li>TN   Nashville   Courthouse, City Hall fires set after vandalized, windows smashed; no LE injuries</li> </ul>

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SHOOTINGS	<p>Scattered reporting. One known LEO fatality; several injuries; generally reported as 'shots fired.' Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Oakland   One federal officer killed, another critically wounded in drive-by shooting outside Federal Building, ½ mile from local protests; unconfirmed if linked directly to protests</li> <li>CA   Santa Monica   Shots fired at police from vehicle, also outside a drug store; no known injuries</li> <li>KY   Louisville   Shots fired at police vehicle; one bullet struck car; no injuries</li> <li>MN   Minneapolis   Shots fired at LEOs from rooftops, during drive-by; no injuries</li> <li>NC   Raleigh   Shots fired at firefighters and LEOs from a vehicle in separate incidents; no injuries</li> <li>WI   Milwaukee   Non-fatal LEO gunshot injury while responding to protest</li> </ul>
VEHICULAR ASSAULTS	<p>Sporadic reports. Mostly accomplished with standard vehicles. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA   Los Angeles   Car driven through two skirmish lines; no injuries; driver arrested</li> <li>CO   Denver   Car hit-and-run by WY plated-vehicle seriously injured three LEOs and one civilian</li> <li>GA   Atlanta   ATV driven through protest, seriously injuring one LEO</li> <li>MI   Detroit   Car narrowly missed a bike-mounted LEO near a skirmish line</li> <li>TN   Tallahassee   Pickup truck intentionally drove into group of protestors; no LEO or civilian injuries</li> <li>TX   Houston   SUV attempted to run down a LEO; no injury, and drive has been identified</li> </ul>
EDGED WEAPONS	<p>Rarely reported activity. One current example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FL   Jacksonville   Officer stabbed/slashed at the neck during skirmishes; currently hospitalized</li> </ul>
CYBER ATTACKS	<p>Rarely reported activity. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IL   Chicago   Police radios hacked to broadcast song "F*** the Police"</li> <li>MN   Minneapolis   DDoS attack temporarily disabled a State computer system</li> </ul>

## (U) Reporting, Questions, Feedback

(U) To report suspicious activity to the JRIC, visit [www.jric.org](http://www.jric.org), or call (562) 345-1100 or (888) 705-JRIC (5742). Please direct all other questions to the JRIC at [jric@jric.org](mailto:jric@jric.org)